

January 14, 2014

Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write with alarm regarding Southwest Flight #4013, which was originally scheduled to land at Branson Airport (BKG), but instead landed at M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport, also known as Taney County Airport (PLK). Thankfully, there were no injuries or fatalities in this incident; however, given the fact that the longest runway at the PLK airport is almost half the length of the longest runway at BKG, the improper landing of this plane could have had dire results. This incident more than necessitates a complete and thorough investigation into why it occurred.

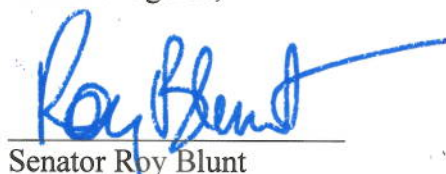
The Federal Aviation Administration is tasked with ensuring the safe and efficient movement of travelers throughout this country, playing a vital role in our nation's transportation sector. Airline travelers, airport employees, and those on the ground must have every assurance that pilots are fully prepared to transport passengers safely to the correct destination. The implications of an incident such as this must be taken seriously.

In addition, I request the following information:

1. Who had primary responsibility for ensuring the aircraft landed at the appropriate airport? What is the typical chain of command when an airline prepares to land?
2. Will you make the pilot call logs available to my staff?
3. Generally, what are the steps that FAA will undertake to investigate this incident?
4. What are the current regulations under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) which allow pilots to land a plane without backup instruments?

I appreciate your serious consideration of this request. The flying public and residents surrounding every commercial airport in the country deserve answers.

Sincere regards,



Senator Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Commerce Subcommittee on  
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security